

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0928

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 8074

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PGOV, PINS

SUBJECT: LOSS OF NATIONALITY

REF: 74 SANTIAGO 5494

1. THE "DIARIO OFICIAL" ON AUGUST 13 PUBLISHED SUPREME DECREE NO. 545, DEPRIVING CHILEAN EX-AMBASSADOR HUGO VIGORENA RAMIREZ OF HIS CHILEAN NATIONALITY. THE DECREE CARRIED THE SIGNATURES OF PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND ALL HIS CABINET MINISTERS.

2. DECREE LAW 175 OF DECEMBER 10, 1973 GAVE THE GOC AUTHORITY TO STRIP CHILEAN CITIZENS OF THEIR NATIONALITY IF THEY "GRAVELY THREATEN THE ESSENTIAL INTERESTS OF THE STATE ... WHILE ABROAD." DECREE LAW 1301 OF JANUARY 7, 1976 AMENDED DL 175 PROCEDURALLY BY REQUIRING THAT A SUPREME DECREE BE SIGNED BY ALL THE MINISTERS OF STATE, AND AFFORDING THE AFFECTED 90 DAYS FROM THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SUPREME DECREE TO APPEAL THE DECISION BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT.

3. SD 545 STATED THAT VIGORENA, ALLENDE'S AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO AT THE TIME OF THE COUP, HAD PROMOTED A VIOLENT PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN "FROM MEXICO AGAINST THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF CHILE, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF OVERTHROWING THE GOVERNMENT AND REPLACING IT WITH A MARXIST REGIME." THE SUPREME DECREE ADDED THAT VIGORENA HAD ASSERTED THAT THE
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PRESENT GOC EMPLOYED CREMATORY OVENS TO ERASE ANY EVIDENCE

OF ALLEGED "ASSASSINATIONS" CARRIED OUT BY THE MILITARY.

4. THE DECREE FURTHER MENTIONED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "A PROPER ATTITUDE" -- LEGITIMATE OR ILLEGITIMATE -- OPPOSING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE "UNMASKED ACTIONS OF THOSE ... THREATENING THE ESSENTIAL INTERESTS OF THE STATE AND CONSCIOUSLY PROVOKING GREAT HARM TO THE ENTIRE CHILEAN NATION." VIGORENA'S "ANTI-PATRIOTIC ACTIONS" OF SEEKING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISOLATION OF CHILE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAVE "GRAVELY DAMAGED THE ESSENTIAL INTERESTS OF THE STATE." THE DECREE CONCLUDES THAT VIGORENA NO LONGER HARBORS THE "MINIMAL FEELING OF LOVE OR OBLIGATION OF SOLIDARITY" THAT A PERSON HAS FOR HIS COUNTRY, AND HAS INSTEAD BECOME A "DECIDED ENEMY OF CHILE."

5. COMMENT: THIS IS THE SECOND CASE WE HAVE RECORDED OF THE GOC DEPRIVING A CITIZEN OF HIS CHILEAN NATIONALITY UNDER DECREE LAW 175. THE FIRST SUCH CASE WAS THAT OF JOURNALIST HERNAN URIBE ORTEGA (REFTEL), WHO WAS DEPRIVED OF HIS CITIZENSHIP ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1974.
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TAGS: PGOV, PINS, CI, (VIGORENA RAMIREZ, HUGO)
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